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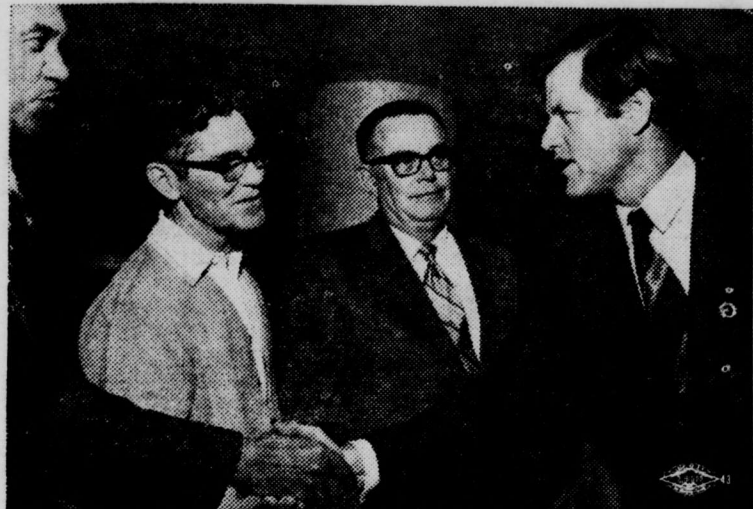
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Kennedy hits health costs



SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY, at right, shakes hands with a unionist at last week's California Labor Federation conference in San Francisco on national health insurance. He assailed too-high cost of present health care. (Story page 8).

Office buildings strike looms

Downtown Oakland office building maintenance workers were ready to strike next Monday unless there is a settlement this week on their proposals to raise their poverty-level \$2.69 to \$2.78 per hour wages.

The 200 janitors and janitresses want a \$1.50 per hour raise in three 50-cent installments in a three year contract, replacing one whose expiration date was March 1.

The Building Owners & Managers Association has offered a 65-cent package, 25 cents more this year and 20 cent raises in 1972 and 1973.

Wages are the only economic issue in the negotiations except a 5-cent per hour pension contribution increase which both sides have agreed shall be effective in the third contract year.

In negotiations Tuesday, management held to its offer. Another session was scheduled Thursday after the association was to poll its members on a possible change in management's offer.

Strike sanction has been released by the Alameda County Central Labor Council to a committee of involved organizations, including the Building Trades

Council and Joint Council of Teamsters 7.

The committee and Local 18 representatives were to meet management in the last-ditch negotiating session Thursday.

If that produces no settlement, said Local 18 Secretary-Business Representative Ben Tusi, Local 18 will have no alternative but to strike at 6:30 a.m. Monday.

If a strike is called, Local 18 will ask vigorous support from the entire labor movement. Business Representative Charles Garner said.

The issue, he declared, is simply poverty.

Bargaining vote by 6,500 county workers seen in April

Elections in which 6,500 Alameda County employees will choose bargaining representatives were tentatively set for the week beginning April 26 after the board of supervisors had approved 14 representational units.

Voting will be in work locations and will be supervised by a roving election team. Results are to be certified by the county department of elections.

The board last week approved the last 10 of the 14 units proposed by County Director of Industrial Relations James W. Marshall. It had accepted four two weeks earlier.

All 14 were approved as drafted by Marshall. Supervisor Fred F. Cooper sought to modify a unit to which the Alameda County Building Trades Council had objected but his motion failed. The BTC had objected to exclusion of some and inclusion of other jobs in the unit, including

craft workers, which it seeks to represent.

Also seeking to represent groups of county workers are Social Services Union Local 535, United Public Employees Local 390, Hospital Employees Local 250 and eight unaffiliated organizations.

Winners are to be certified by the board and are to negotiate with Marshall's department on wages, hours and working conditions.

Bargaining will lead to "memoranda of agreement" which must be ratified by the board.

Under the board's ordinance, implementing the Meyers-Millias-Brown Act for representation and bargaining by local government employees, Marshall will set the dates for the election.

He said last week that the tentative dates appeared likely to be those finally set.

Stopwork urged as Davis-Bacon protest

(Editorial page 7)

Representatives of California's 340,000 union construction building tradesmen last week called for a nationwide construction work stoppage in protest at President Nixon's wage-cutting suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act.

The executive board of the State Building & Construction Trades Council made the plea for such a stopwork demonstration to the AFL-CIO Building Trades Department, amending a Los Angeles Building Trades Council resolution which had called for a statewide work halt.

At an emergency meeting in Sacramento, the State BTC

board also asked that "a march on the Capitol" by 5,000 hard hat wearing delegates to the Building Trades Department Legislative Conference in Washington be discussed April 21 during the conference.

State BTC President James S. Lee wrote all affiliates urging them and their members to write or wire Nixon, Senators Alan Cranston and John V. Tunney and Congressmen, strongly protesting suspension of the law for prevailing wages on federal construction.

The law, passed in 1931 to prevent use of federal money to depress wages, has generally set union wages and fringes as the federal construction standard.

By suspending the law and opening the way for non-union contractors to supplant union builders, Nixon has also junked

union health and welfare and pensions, the board declared.

"The President has, contrary to the public policy of the country, not only reduced the labor of a human being to the status of a commodity but has offered it for sale to the contractors at the lowest possible price," a resolution charged.

"Since in the eyes of the President, a commodity as soon as it wears out is to be relegated to the scrap heap, he has also suspended health and welfare and pension coverage..."

Meanwhile, state and national building trades union bodies were studying legal action against the suspension — which a number of labor attorneys called clearly unlawful, since the only emergency for which Con-

MORE on page 8

No COPE support in city council District 5 race

Disqualification of candidates has reduced the field for the Fifth District seat on the Oakland city council to the point where labor this week found no candidate worthy of support.

COPE accordingly voted no endorsement, refusing support in the April 20 election either to the incumbent or his one opponent, a restaurant employee.

Endorsed last week by COPE for city council were:

District 1—Betty Ann Bruno.

District 3—Paul Cobb.

District 7—Doug Jones.

COPE's candidates for the Oakland board of education April 20 are:

Director 2 — Melvin Caughell, incumbent.

Director 4 — Ellison W. Brown. The Alameda County Central Labor Council has endorsed Measure One on the Oakland ballot to improve pension benefits for city employees. The proposal would hike average pensions 3 to 4 per cent by basing retirement benefits on three, instead of five highest-paid years of employment.

COPE voted open endorsements in the races for city councilman at large and for board of education Director 3, meaning labor neither supports nor opposes any candidate. No endorsement, finding no candidate worthy of support, was voted in the school board Director 1 contest.

BTC insists on prevailing wage in local construction

The Alameda County Building Trades Council this week established a policy of insisting on a guarantee of prevailing wages before endorsing public construction measures.

Accordingly, the BTC declined to endorse the \$52,000,000 bond issue for earthquakeproofing of Oakland schools, to be voted on May 18.

It also served notice that it similarly was holding action in abeyance on the proposal for a county park in South County hill areas.

It took its position in face of President Nixon's suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act for prevailing wages on federal construction an action which BTC Secretary-Treasurer Lamar Childers says raises "serious question of the reaction of local agencies."

The Nixon administration has maintained that Nixon's suspension also invalidates state prevailing wage laws.

In both cases involved in this week's BTC vote and future cases, the council will refuse to act unless public jurisdictions involved make the prevailing wage part of construction contracts, delegates agreed.

While four states—New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and

Nevada — have declared their prevailing pay laws remain in effect despite Nixon's action, California Attorney General Evelle J. Younger has failed to rule on the issue, Childers reported.

The state legislative counsel, however, has ruled that the state law is effective on public construction where only state or local government money is involved, Childers said.

"Under this interpretation," said Childers, "you have to realize that there are few public construction jobs without some kind of federal involvement."

Not only working building tradesmen but retired craftsmen will be hit if, as feared, non-union contractors move in heavily to federal construction, BTC President Paul Jones warned.

"Their pension benefits depend on union negotiations," he noted. Davis-Bacon covers our fringes too."

Scabs back at struck firm

Strikebreakers were back in the United Foam plant in Oakland this week and management had an injunction limiting picketing.

Meanwhile, there was no progress in negotiations between striking Teamsters Local 70 and ILWU Warehouse Local 6 and United Foam's Southern California-based management after a

management offer had been rejected.

Management, which stopped scabbing and began daily bargaining after AFL-CIO unionists joined strikers on the picket line, had gone back to its one day a week negotiating schedule. Management representatives were flying in from the south and flying out after brief talks.

The Teamsters and Warehousemen were chosen by the 87 workers in a National Labor Relations Board election last fall at the plant at 4950 San Leandro Street, Oakland.

The employees struck January 26 after management refused to offer any raise over non-union wages as low as \$2 an hour, noting that it paid even less at its non-union Los Angeles operation.

Management's injunction limits pickets to six to a gate, re-

EDITOR'S CHAIR

It is not true that the slogan around the Department of Justice is, "There is no God but Hoover and the FBI is his prophet."

But it is true that the FBI is the most publicity-conscious, image-building police force around and John Edgar, its head

MORE on page 8

MORE on page 3

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Union meeting notices page 6, correspondents columns, page 4.

The little fellow is fighting back

By Sidney Margolius
Labor Journal's Consumer Expert

There's a new spirit abroad in the land. The little fellow is fighting back against mortgage lenders and others who nick him for extra dollars of interest here and there.

He is arguing with banks who hold his property tax and insurance payments in escrow without paying him any interest, against mail order sellers who don't send the merchandise and even with the tax collectors.

Here is a followup on a number of these dollar-nickers reported on in previous columns:

ESCROW: Reader William Quigley writes that he bought a house on contract from a savings and loan association. The taxes seemed low at the time.

What he did not realize was that the loan association had got a temporary break on the assessments on several properties because they had been repossessed, were vacant and had been damaged.

A few months later the tax bill went up \$100 and the loan association made him increase his house payment from \$161 to

\$173. Then the tax bill went up another \$70 a year and the lender demanded an increase in payments to \$200 a month -- much more than necessary to cover the current tax increases.

He protested. But the savings and loan said he had to have enough in his escrow account by the end of the year to pay taxes due in June and September -- six and nine months ahead of time!

He has complained to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, his state's attorney general, U.S. Senator and to Virginia Knauer, consumer assistant to the President.

He reports that the Home Loan Bank Board and the Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation seem to be investigating. But from the others he got what he calls form-letters and "double-talk."

A member of the Berkeley Co-op, John Buxton, told in Co-Op News how he refused to make advance escrow payments to a savings and loan association for taxes and insurance.

The association then deducted

the escrow amount from his payments on the principal of the mortgage. This gave the association a basis for declaring Buxton in default and starting foreclosure proceedings. But it took only one phone call from his lawyer to make the association back off and release Buxton from the escrow arrangement.

TAXES: Mrs. C. W. reports that we saved her \$160 on taxes by pointing out that even though a youngster under 19 had an income he could still be claimed as a dependent if he were a full-time student.

She says that the man who filed her return disagreed but she and her husband filed an amended return and got a refund of \$120 for the exemption plus \$40 more because the exemption put them in a lower tax bracket.

You can claim your dependent child as an exemption even if he has \$625 or more income of his own if he is under 19 or, is a full-time student at a regular school during some part of each of five months of the year.

The child also can claim an

exemption for himself when he files his own return. But make sure you do provide over 50 per cent of his support, including living expenses, school expenses, clothes, transportation, medical care -- all personal expenses.

You don't have to count any scholarship aid or a student nurse's free room and board in determining how much the child provides towards his own support.

Say your son's living expenses including college costs, incidentals and costs of maintaining him at home during vacations are \$4,000 for the year.

He receives a scholarship of \$1,000 and earns \$1,200 from part-time work. You contribute the other \$1,800. Since the scholarship is not counted, you do provide more than half his after-scholarship expenses of \$3,000.

Another reader, B. F. C., feels that withholding income taxes is even unfairer than escrow payments. Until a few years ago he arranged with his employer not to withhold taxes. He deposited the money each payday into his own savings account, drew it out in January after the interest

was computed, and paid his taxes. Then he changed employers and was told his system was illegal.

"Someone is really raking in millions on withholding taxes without compensating the main contributor," he complains. "Why don't you comment about this?"

Glad to. Businessmen and professional people do get an edge on advance tax payments. They can pay estimated taxes quarterly and so have the use of their money longer than can employed people whose taxes are reduced to be withheld each payday.

MAIL-ORDER WIGS: Several months ago we reported the experience of Debbie, a 13-year-old girl who had sent a check for \$22 for a wig to Susy Wigs, a New York mail-order seller that had advertised in *Hairstyle* magazine. The company never sent the wig to Debbie, or apparently to a number of other women who paid in advance.

But Debbie complained to the postal inspectors and the New York State Attorney General, and has got her money back.

(Copyright 1971)

Pay chiselling rose to \$93,000,000 in 1970

The Labor Department caught employers underpaying 465,000 workers by \$93,000,000 last year in violating wage minimum, overtime and equal pay requirements of wage-hour law. That was \$4,000,000 more than employers illegally withheld in 1969.

Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson disclosed the known wage chiselling in a report to Congress.

Two other significant disclosures in Hodgson's report were:

1. The department found it doubtful that minimum wage increases last year had "any substantial impact on wage, price or employment trends." Employer groups maintain that minimum wage raises wipe out marginal workers' jobs.

2. Despite minimum wage increases, the minimum wage is now at a lower ratio of average hourly earnings than in 1950.

Rather than affecting the job picture, the February, 1970 minimum boost of 15 cents per hour "did help 2,000,000 workers recover some of the purchasing power eroded by the steady upward movement of prices," Hodgson reported.

The AFL-CIO executive council wants a raise to \$2 per hour from the present \$1.60 minimum, noting that the \$1.60, projected in 1966 by Congress for this year, and now effective, "was barely tolerable at that time and is utterly inadequate in 1971."

Hodgson's report said child labor law violations in nonfarm industries rose more than 15 per cent in 1969-70 with 11,570 minors found illegally employed -- 4,412 in hazardous occupations.

In agriculture, Labor Department agents reported 1,472 minors as illegally employed -- up

18 per cent over the previous fiscal year.

Here is how the department broke down the \$93,000,000 in underpayments its investigators were able to find:

• Failure to pay the required wage minimums deprived 207,000 workers of \$29,000,000 -- up by more than 8 per cent over 1969.

• Overtime pay violations deprived 231,000 employees of \$54,000,000 due them under the wage-hour law.

• Backpay totaling \$6,000,000 was found to be due 18,000 workers, mostly women, in violation of the law requiring equal pay for equal work regardless of sex.

• \$4,000,000 in back pay due to some of the 100,000 employees of state and local schools and hospitals whose employers have voluntarily complied with wage-hour law. The 100,000 workers also got \$4,000,000 in raises with voluntary compliance.

Hodgson did not say how much of the \$93,000,000 was recovered, but of 1969's \$89,000,000 withheld, only \$31,700,000 went to victimized workers, while the rest of them couldn't be located.

Last week the department broadcast an appeal to 346 Northern California workers to appear and collect \$27,178 chiselled from them by employers.

Supreme Court agrees to rule on repossession issue

A hearing on a challenge to repossession of merchandise without a court order -- a practice legal in most states including California -- will be heard by the United States Supreme Court at its next term.

The appellant is 55 year old Margarita Fuentes, a Miami, Florida, factory worker who halted payments on a stove which she said was defective.

The store, acting under Florida law, got the help of a deputy sheriff in sending men to her home to repossess the merchandise without a court hearing.

In her appeal, Mrs. Fuentes said they could legally have broken into her house if she had refused.

The Supreme Court agreed to review the issue at its next term.

Getting Your Money's Worth

The auto industry has reduced compression ratios and made other modifications in most of the 1971 engines to allow the use of lower-octane gasolines, allowing the oil companies to reduce or eliminate lead in some of their gasolines.

Lead was added to gasoline as part of chemical formulations to increase the octane number so that the engine does not ping or knock.

MOST of the 1971 cars will run on a lower-grade gasoline without knocking.

Lead is known to be poisonous. A federal study showed that atmospheric concentrations of lead compounds in urban areas frequently exceeded levels thought to be dangerous and showed a definite relationship between atmospheric lead exposure and blood lead levels.

Consumer Reports says "less atmospheric lead is not the primary stimulus for the new gasolines." It says the federal standards for auto emissions of certain pollutants will be so strict by 1975 that drastic changes will be needed in cars.

Consumer Reports notes that oil companies can raise octane levels without adding lead to gasoline, but it may take some time before many oil companies are able to produce unleaded high-octane gasoline in any quantity.

But a major supplier of lead compounds for the gasoline industry cites a government test which showed emissions from unleaded gasoline reacted more readily with sunlight to form smog.

THE GOVERNMENT says these results were taken out of context and that the refining process used to make the experimental unleaded gasoline was only one of many possible ways to increase octane without lead. And an oil company says its lab tests showed its high-octane unleaded gas reacted less readily with sunlight.

Pre-school vaccinations

State Senator Nicholas C. Petris has introduced a bill to require that all California children must be vaccinated against tetanus and diphtheria before enrolling in school.

Another criticism of the new engines and gasolines is that they may decrease efficiency and fuel economy, increasing pollutants other than lead. Consumer Reports concludes this issue is "muddled."

It says that to maintain accelerative performance in the face of stricter pollution - control standards, many manufacturers have increased the size of their basic engines, cutting fuel economy.

Another possible problem raised by some industry sources is that without lead or equally effective lubricant, unusually rigorous driving could cause what is called valve recession. The exhaust valves would pound damagingly into their seats and eventually burn out.

Consumer Reports says it is indicated that it doesn't take much lead for some valve protection, and occasional use of leaded gasoline may be warranted in most present cars. It says "even under the most severe operating conditions, unleaded gasoline needn't be a problem for engines if manufacturers designed them with extra-hard valve seats."

Kite-flyer safety

The Pacific Gas & Electric Company has some safety tips for kite flyers in a free cartoon book available at the firm's offices.

It warns kite flyers to keep kites away from power lines or utility poles, but also advises youngsters to call the PG&E when kites are snagged on power lines. It warns against pulling strings or climbing power poles or trees near power lines.

Its other advice:

1. Use dry kite string, never wire or anything metallic.
2. Use kites of wood and paper, never wire or metal.
3. Do not fly kites on rainy days.
4. Don't fly kites on busy streets or highways.
5. Fly kites away from radio and television antennas.
6. Keep away from fallen wires.

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MOTHERHOOD IS respectable, these picketing stewardesses told National Airlines at National's golf tournament in Miami. They protested the company's refusal to rehire stewardesses after they became mothers and firing them when they refused to resign after becoming

pregnant. The pickets are members of the Air Line Pilots. Some stewardesses discharged under the company's policy have been denied unemployment benefits because state agencies have been told they were guilty of misconduct.

Final ban on Reagan gift of prison labor

The California Supreme Court made it final and official last week that Governor Reagan had no authority to hand over cheap prison labor to big farm owners.

The court refused the review, asked by Attorney General Evelle Younger, of a superior court injunction later upheld by the State Court of Appeals, which held Reagan had violated the state constitution.

Reagan delivered convicts to grape and fig growers for the 1967 harvest, claiming an "emergency" although the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee offered to supply all needed labor at union rates.

Thomas L. Pitts, then secretary of the California Labor Feder-

ation, sued in San Francisco superior court for the injunction. The injunction was granted in November, 1967, and was made permanent in March, 1969. Reagan appealed.

The appeals court upheld the order in January, 1971, and refused a rehearing in February, so Younger went to the Supreme Court with the governor's case.

Pitts hung his suit on Article X, Section 1 of the California Constitution which declares:

"The labor of convicts shall not be let out by contract to any person, co-partnerships, company or corporation, and the Legislature shall, by law, provide for the working of convicts for the benefit of the state."

Reagan attempted to get around the flat constitutional ban on use of convict labor by private interests by citing new Penal Code sections permitting work furloughs for state prisoners.

Labor attorneys rejoined that the 1967 harvest work had no rehabilitative value as required in work furloughs and that there was no labor shortage when Reagan delivered cut-rate prison labor to big growers.

Last week's Supreme Court action permanently enjoins Reagan and all future state administrations from turning over prisoners to private employers.

Unionists ban employer request to tell all

Laborers Local 304 told a Southern California contractor that its members will not fill out a pre-employment questionnaire in which the company asked unionists to tell all from marital status to education, work record to criminal record if any — and lots more.

The Alameda County Building Trades Council backed Local 304's stand and cited the employer before its executive board on a charge of contract violation.

The contract's work referral clause makes no provision for the detailed personal questions asked in the questionnaire, the BTC said.

The questionnaire would even release the company from responsibility if it led to the employee's firing, said Local 304 Field Representative Emmett Jones.

It came from the William Lyon Development Company, Inc., of Costa Mesa which is the general contractor on a housing tract near Dublin, Jones reported.

If filled out it would give management a detailed dossier on each employee. Some of the items:

Age, physical description health including disabilities, amputations, deformities and chronic illnesses, citizenship, military service, date and place of any misdemeanor or felony conviction, whether the employee has ever been fired or refused a bond, whether he has ever failed a physical examination, filed for workmen's compensation, ever got a workmen's compensation award based on any kind of permanent disability, whether he would take a physical examination, marital status, ages of children, parents or other relatives, names and addresses of close relatives, work history for the 10 years including names of supervisors, addresses and phone number of employers, employee's wages and jobs, education from elementary school up, whether owning, buying or renting a home, whether living with spouse parents or relatives.

The questionnaire wants a yes or no to whether the job appli-

cant was ever a member of a Communist "organization or political party" or organization advocating force and violence.

It asks two personal references.

The clincher: signing the questionnaire relieves the company from liability in "any respect" for termination because of answers by informants listed on employment or physical condition or because of any other information on the applicant.

Help needed now in L.A. Hearst fight

An urgent appeal for more financial help now for the 2,000 Los Angeles newspaper unionists on strike or locked out at the Hearst Herald-Examiner was issued by the California Labor Federation this week.

Now three months into the fourth year of their struggle against the scab-hiring Her-Ex, the union members have reached a crisis point and will "suffer badly" without more help, Federation Secretary John F. Henning wrote affiliates.

Checks should be made payable to the Herald-Examiner Joint Strike-Lockout Committee and sent directly to:

William R. Robertson, Strike-Lockout Coordinator, Herald-Examiner Joint Strike - Lockout Committee, 225 West Eleventh Street, Los Angeles, California 90015.

Far cry from Pico Rivera to top state welfare job

Heading the 1968 United Crusade drive in Pico Rivera may have been praiseworthy but it does not qualify a man to be state director of social welfare.

Nor does serving in 1966-67 as vice president of the Whittier Community Board of the United Way.

Social Services Union Local 535 made those points in opposing Governor Reagan's nomination of Robert Carleson to the top social welfare post.

Democratic State Senator Alfred E. Alquist of San Jose also took on the nomination and succeeded in getting it separated from a package of nominations recommended for confirmation by the Senate Rules Committee.

Action was possible this week on the Carleson nomination to head the more than \$1,000,000-000 welfare program. The Rules Committee approved it narrowly, 3 to 2.

Local 535 quoted the Welfare & Institutions Code provision written into law at the request of the League of Women Voters and aimed at political appointments.

It declares that the director "shall be appointed wholly on the basis of training, demonstrated ability, experience and leadership in organized social welfare administration."

Besides his Pico Rivera and Whittier fund drives, Carleson's background includes six months membership on Reagan's task force on welfare and the jobs of city manager in Pico Rivera and San Dimas, assistant city manager in Torrance and Claremont, assistant director of public works in Beverly Hills and state chief deputy director of public works.

None of that, said Local 535, equals "training, demonstrated ability, experience and leadership in organized social welfare administration."

Apprentice rolls re-opened

The Bay Counties Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Program, which closed its apprenticeship rolls here and in four other Bay Area counties because of heavy joblessness last November, has begun accepting applications again.

The program is requiring applicants to find an employer willing to hire them as apprentices, however, before accepting them for training.

Reopening of the program resulted from a pickup in homebuilding and because of the program's obligation to continue to supply future journeymen, Director Gordon Littman said.

Homebuilding has improved, he said, because more lending money is available, lenders have cut interest rates and the need for housing continues.

When the program was halted in November there were 240 unemployed carpenter apprentices in the five counties. The figure rose to 340 in December and January and now is down to 95.

Can industry walkout ends with wage gains

The month long can industry strike ended Monday as Steelworkers accepted a three-year contract with better than \$1 per hour pay raise package.

Six hundred members of United Steelworkers Local 7616 were among the 33,000 who struck three big container firms February 15. They returned to work Monday at the American Can Company plant in Oakland.

Strikers also included 200 members of Steelworkers Local 5084 at Continental Can Company in Pittsburg and 50 workers at the American Can plant in San Francisco.

Also struck nationwide was Crown Cork & Seal. One firm, National Can Company, broke the formerly solid industry Big 4 by signing prior to the strike deadline.

The strike-ending settlement paralleled terms of the National Can agreement. It called for a 50-cent per hour raise in the first contract year, 12½ cents in each of the next two years plus at least 12½-cent per hour cost of living adjustments in each.

Pension contributions increases are among improvements in the new agreement, which was accepted by representatives of the 125 local unions involved in the nationwide strike.

Indoctrination, furnishing information for applicants, has been resumed at the program's new headquarters, 2600 Sixteenth Street, San Francisco.

Weakley in U.S. job; Mitchell named by board

Ronald T. Weakley, business manager of Electrical Workers Local 1245 for 20 years, resigned Monday to accept a Labor Department post and the union's executive board named L. L. Mitchell to serve his unexpired term.

Weakley's resignation is effective next Friday, March 26. Mitchell, who had been Weakley's senior assistant, will serve as acting business manager until the post is filled at the regular Local 1245 election in June.

Weakley became a business representative of Local 1245, which now represents more than 17,000 Pacific Gas & Electric Company employees, in 1950 and was named business manager in 1951.

His new post is assistant director for technical assistance in the Labor Department's Office of Labor-Management and Pension Reports.

It was last filled by the late Sam Eubanks, former executive vice president of the American Newspaper Guild and former executive secretary of the San Francisco - Oakland Newspaper Guild. Eubanks died four years ago.

Mitchell joined Local 1245's staff as a business representative in 1951.

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BY KEITH & JIM

Since Jim and I started writing this column, we have tried desperately to make it as informative as possible and also interesting enough so that all members would read it. From the comments we have received, we believe many members are reading this column. We hope every member reads this particular column at least twice and begins to realize what this Nixon administration is doing to you. We are talking about the President's suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act.

The Davis-Bacon Act is perhaps the single most important piece of Federal Legislation to union construction workers and their contractors. First enacted in 1931, its stated purpose is to insure that Federal expenditures of construction monies shall not be used to "depress" wages in a community. Wherever Federal funds are to be used for construction purposes in a community, the Labor Department is empowered under the Act to "predetermine" the minimum wage rates that must be paid on those projects by contractors and subcontractors who receive contracts to perform any covered work on those projects. Historically, the predetermined wage rate for "prevailing wages" established on Federal projects has been, almost without exception, the wage rate and fringe benefits of locally negotiated labor agreements covering the area.

In simple language, the President's suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act means that anyone can bid on federally assisted construction and they don't have to pay your negotiated wages and fringes.

We can inform you about this situation at our meetings and by way of this article, but when you are really going to understand it is when you are asked to take a job for 3 or 4 dollars an hour with no fringes and you refuse the job and then they cut off your unemployment. There is a good possibility that this will actually happen. Now maybe you can begin to realize how important this suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act is. Nixon is after your guts, make no mistake about it and he is going to hit you where it hurts, your pocket book.

We urge members to send telegrams, night letters or letters to their representatives in both Federal and State to protest this action taken by President Nixon.

Almost every job I go on, some other craft is doing work that has been traditionally, and historically performed by sheet metal workers in the past. Why, is it because we are getting lazy and if we can have someone else do our work we are satisfied? Is it because we feel that everyone has to make a living and we have so much work we can afford to give it away? Is it because our employers think they can make more money on the material alone and not with the labor installing it? Maybe these employers don't realize that it won't take the General Contractor long to figure out that they can buy from a supplier for less than from them, and then where will they be? This has been tried on many of our sheet metal contractors whether big or small and in many cases it is working. No one, either our member or his employer, will fully realize this until it hits them where it hurts the most, in the pocket book. We as members don't think about all the work we let get by us until we are out of work and then we blame the member working for this loss and not ourselves. It is time all of us think about tomorrow instead of today whether we are working or not and tell us, your business representative, of any interlopers doing our work so

that we can secure this work again. Remember, no one's job is secure that he can afford to overlook another craft doing his job. Tomorrow the shoe can be on the other foot and he may be in the same position as 200 of his brothers have been for several months. Now that your government makes it open season on all building trades union, on Federally financed jobs, by admitting and protecting all non-union workers, we better protect all our work on all the jobs that we can.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: By diligence and patience, the mouse bit in two the cable. Franklin

Members of the Tri-State Death Benefit Plan, Death Assessment 693 is now due and payable.

Regular membership meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m., Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland CA.

Chips and Chatter

BY GUNNAR (BENNY) BONONYS

Received letters from Brothers John G. Dean in Riverside, California and Ernest Schaefer from No. Mackay, Queensland, Australia, now on his way to Trinidad. Seems our retirees are really traveling all over the world.

A special meeting of building trades Business Representatives was called at Sacramento, March 10 at 10 a.m. to discuss the implications of the President's (Nixon) action on the Davis-Bacon law.

Three outstanding attorneys, including Victor Van Bourg, (representing the Carpenters) outlined their opinions and recommendations, which were adopted by the 300 agents present.

1. No legal actions are to be filed by any agent unless it is cleared and coordinated by the State Building Trades Council.

2. The National Council is to pursue the questionable legal action of the President.

3. In the 40 states that have enacted "Little Davis-Bacon" statutes all agents are to enforce these laws vigorously.

4. All unions are to request their membership to write individual letters to their Congressmen and Senators protesting the President's action.

All members will be kept informed of all actions, in the meantime "Don't rock the boat." Uncle Benny says, "some people never exaggerate, they just remember big!"

Li'll GeeGee, our office vamp, observes when the kids dance these days, they don't talk, they don't touch one another, they don't even look at one another. It's kinda like being married for 30 years.

Have you heard this one? First Buzzard: "That was a new two-engine jet that just went by. Don't you wish you could fly that fast?"

Second Buzzard: "Listen, if I had two tails and they both were on fire, you wouldn't even see me!"

Brother Bill's doctor says he can cure a woman of just about any complaint simply by telling her it's a sign of old age!

The following Brother's applications were approved by the Pension Approval Committee: **LOCAL 36, OAKLAND:** Alex H. Karaeff and Jame T. Sanford. **LOCAL 1622, HAYWARD:** Anthony R. Bettencourt, Leonard F. McCoy, John Militello and Bill R. O'Neal.

LOCAL 642, RICHMOND: John C. Elderson, Ralph V. Hammond, Howard E. Mallory and Roy W. Moran.

LOCAL 34, OAKLAND: Marshall E. Capp and Roy J. Lawrence.

LOCAL 102, Millwrights, Oakland: Elmer C. Haggard.

Pre-retirement Death benefits were approved to Mrs. Mabel M.

Anderson, widow of Vyril O. Anderson, former financial secretary of Carpenters Local 1622.

Brother Joe Marley stopped in this morning and informed us that his wife also retired recently. Here's hoping these two wonderful people really enjoy their retirement.

Don't forget to attend as many meetings as you can. It's so important to you to know what's going on. Get the direct word at the meetings.

See you at YOUR next UNION meeting, Brother?

Barbers 134

JACK M. REED

Brothers, I received an official letter from the International stating that the Pension Fund has been frozen by a court order and that Pension monies are not to be collected.

Therefore please mail in dues monies only. I have held all February and March Pension payments that were collected during February and March to date and if the Federal Court decides to put the Fund into receivership, these monies will be returned.

The winner of the San Jose Barber Show was Joseph De Franco of San Francisco. Joe will journey to San Diego in July to compete in the California State Barbers Association Gold Cup Contest. Roberto Piaz placed first in the Classic contest, Joseph De Franco second, and William Rattey third. The Mod contest was won by Joseph De Franco. Dennis Aho second and William Rattey third. The exact date of the San Francisco Show has not been set, but will be held either Sunday, May 16th or 23rd.

In the latest issue of the Journeyman Barber there is an interesting article on increasing your earnings by modernizing your shops, selling grooming aids and upgrading your abilities to be able to perform more services. Many of our brothers are leaving the trade to become salesmen of property, automobiles or whatever. This entails a whole new cycle of learning. The question is, if these people put as much time and energy in selling and producing behind their barber chair as they are going to have to do in their new endeavor, would they have had to change jobs? Think about it.

We have four resolutions coming up for a vote (See Official Notices) and I have discussed some of these proposed changes with our shop owners and workers in the shop. These brothers talk very sensibly on these issues from behind their chairs. Now if they would only come to the meetings and express themselves the same way. Maybe we should install a barber chair at our meeting so that they could talk from behind one. Brothers, the vote on these resolutions is important to your livelihood. Please come and take part.

Labor reporter dead

Stanley Levey, veteran labor reporter for the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, died in Washington at 56. He had been ill since suffering a heart attack last June.

AFSCME 1695

BY ERNIE HABERKERN

UC President Charles Hitch has launched a statewide campaign to convince the people of California that they should be more generous with their taxes to solve the budget crisis of the University. Unfortunately, the University administration seems to be talking to all the wrong people. Last week, for instance, Earl Cheit, professor of Business Administration at UC Berkeley talked to the Commonwealth Club about the budget crisis.

It's like the chickens going to the foxes for help—because the fact is that the business community is largely responsible for the budget crisis. Throughout the country it is the corporations which insist that taxes be levied on the consumer and the small property owner rather than the corporation. And it is these same corporations, like Lockheed and the Pennsylvania Railroad, that demand millions of dollars in government subsidies to keep them from going under because of their own mismanagement. At the same time, of course, they denounce any increase in government funds spent on welfare, health, or education.

The University of California is an excellent example of such a swindle. President Hitch in a speech to the state AFL-CIO convention in 1968 boasted "In California the contribution of the University to the scientific development of agriculture has been basic to the state's growth..." The Wall Street Journal on September 9, 1968 was a little more blunt. In an article entitled "The Farm Subsidy You Don't Hear About" the newspaper commented that the University was running a "...tax-paid clinic for a major industry." Neither Hitch nor the Wall Street Journal mentioned what the University had done for farm workers, for instance, issuing research papers defending the importation of Mexican nationals as strike-breakers.

All of this is relevant now because the right wing in the state is hollering at the top of its lungs about how the little man is being bled to death to support the University, welfare recipients, Medical patients and so on. Not only are the biggest portions of the state and federal budgets devoted to subsidies for the corporations, in the case of the University the corporations also enjoy tax supported research. It would be interesting if the trade union movement were to demand an investigation of the University's books to see if, in fact, a large part of the budget crisis is not due to this kind of corruption. Instead of laying off workers, it might be more economical, not to mention more humane, to force the corporations to pay for what they get. We are not talking about peanuts. The amount spent on agricultural research in 1938 was approximately \$19,000,000. Let's look into it.

MORE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MAIDS AND JANITORS NEGOTIATIONS NEXT WEEK.

Watchmakers 101

BY GEORGE F. ALLEN

As predicted in a previous column, we are now completely settled in our new offices, however, still find ourselves going to the wrong cabinet for staple items—this habit of years standing will soon be overcome—until it is—it has provided many good laughs in the office. However, we are not alone in habits—we find our members i.e., some of them, still mailing their dues book to the old address, which necessitates a loss of time for forwarding and a delay in time in those members receiving their receipts and/or dues books returned to them. Therefore, if you have not already changed the address on YOUR dues book (we are changing the address on your dues books if you have not done so, when we receive them in the office) — please do so now. 785 Market Street, Suite 510, San Francisco, 94103. It will save time for all of us. With the move of offices necessitating a pile up of mail, especially at a time when we are at the busiest time of our year with Government Reports, etc. Therefore, you can save us some time if you will change your own Dues Book to our current address — every little bit at this time will help us as the only thing we lack now is time.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR BROTHER OLI GRINI, proprietor member of our union for many years, operating his own Trade Shop at 209 Post St., San Francisco. His wife Brit presented him with their third son on February 26, 1971. They have named this little fellow who weighed over 8 lbs. and was born at Kaiser Foundation Hospital — Einar B. Grini. Perhaps we have in the making three prospective watchmakers — or a baseball team? Needless to say Brother Grini is very happy and we all join him and his wife Brit in wishing them continued happiness with their lovely family.

FOR SALE: A 6ft x 12 ft. free standing glass and metal booth. It is portable and interlocking metal about three feet up and two feet of glass above that. The Watchmaker who has this item for sale is anxious to dispose of it and we believe if you have use for such a booth, it could be purchased at a very reasonable price. If interested — telephone the union office — 421-1968.

Martin succeeds Hall

George Martin, Hawaii division director of the unaffiliated International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union, has been named by the ILWU executive board to serve the unexpired term of Vice President Jack Hall who died January 2. Elections will be held this spring.

New anti-scab law

Racine, Wisconsin, became the 119th community in the United States to outlaw hiring of professional scabs during a management-labor dispute.

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Black succeeds Minton as GBBA shifts command

Newton W. Black is the new president of the Glass Bottle Blowers Association. Black, former secretary-treasurer, succeeded Lee W. Minton who became president emeritus.

The shift was voted by the GBBA international executive board, implementing the unanimous action of the 1969 convention, GBBA said.

Minton will continue as an AFL-CIO vice-president.

Former Vice President Harry Tulley, of the central and mid-west area, succeeded Black as secretary-treasurer.

Minton, 59, became president at 34 and then was youngest president of any international union. He was elected an AFL-CIO vice president in 1956.

Black had been secretary since 1949 and is a member of the AFL-CIO Services Department standing committee.

Black was a charter member of GBBA Local 95 that was formed in 1933 at the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. in Alton, Illinois. He led an organizing drive as local president.

He became an international representative of the union in 1944 and was named to the GBBA executive board in 1946.

Tulley held several offices in GBBA Local 144 in Montgomery, Alabama, and was a district vice president of the Alabama AFL-CIO before becoming a GBBA vice president.

Five postal unions draft agreement for a merger

In a significant move toward one big union for postal workers, the National Postal Union, largest unaffiliated organization in the postal service, has joined with four AFL-CIO unions in a merger agreement which would set up a new 320,000-member organization.

NPU, formed in 1958 by break-away locals of the AFL-CIO United Federation of Postal Clerks, has agreed to merge with the Clerks, the Post Office Motor Vehicle Employees, the Special Delivery Messengers and the Post Office & General Service Maintenance Employees.

Members of the five unions will vote in a mail referendum on merger ratification later this year. The new union would be known as the American Postal Workers Union if the AFL-CIO executive council approves the name.

NPU holds local bargaining rights in a number of cities and reports its membership as 80,000. The Clerks, with nearly 180,000 members, and the other AFL-CIO unions in the merger move have nationwide bargaining rights.

The new union will endorse the industrial union concept, while providing craft departments to deal with specialized problems.

Who cares about the Oakland housing crisis?

A one and one-half hour program, "Oakland's Housing Crisis—Who Cares?" will be telecast beginning at 9:30 p.m., Sunday, April 4, over KTVU, channel 2.

Presented in cooperation with the Oakland League of Women Voters, it will be based on findings and recommendations of the 701 Report on housing. Appearing will be neighborhood representatives and public officials involved with housing.

Meany hits Russ, Spanish sentences in minority trials

Harsh sentences against Russian Jews and Spanish Basques by their country's dictatorships were denounced by AFL-CIO President George Meany.

Two Jews were sentenced to death and seven Jews and two Gentiles given long prison terms in Leningrad on charges of conspiring to hijack a plane to Israel.

Six Basque Nationalists were sentenced to death by a Spanish military court in Burgos on charges of civil disorder and murder.

Death sentences in both nations were commuted to long prison terms after a worldwide wave of protest.

In separate statements, Meany urged the U.S. government to use every diplomatic and economic pressure "on the Spanish tyrannical regime to end its barbarism" and to "have the USSR rescind its savage verdict and call off its projected anti-Semitic drive."

He said Russian authorities were using Czarist-Stalinist methods of making Jews the scapegoats, terrorizing other Soviet minorities who might wish to flee the country.

"Furthermore," he told an emergency conference on Soviet Jewry in Washington, "the monstrous Leningrad verdict and projected series of anti-

Semitic trials now in preparation are a grave blow against peace in the Middle East because they are calculated to reassure the most warlike Arab elements of unlimited Soviet support even to the point of imposing the death penalty on any Jewish subject seeking to flee to Israel to build a new life in freedom."

He charged the Spanish dictatorship of Francisco Franco with a wave of brutal attacks against its opponents.

Meany said that no matter what disagreement one may have with "certain aims and tactics of any Basque faction, all must condemn the Franco

dictatorship's inhuman treatment of workers, peasants, intellectuals and religious leaders opposing the Falangist dictatorship.

"In this spirit, we also urge free trade unions everywhere to consider joint action for an effective, worldwide economic boycott with a view of assisting democratic forces inside Spain."

Those forces, Meany said, are fighting courageously to replace the totalitarian Franco regime with a truly democratic government that will enable the Spanish people "to take their rightful place in the front ranks of the free nations."

Congress gets labor's recession-ending plan

The AFL-CIO's proposals to solve the Nixon-caused recession has been submitted to the Senate-House Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

AFL-CIO President George Meany told the committee that workers have been badly hurt by President Nixon's economic slowdown and that labor is distressed at Nixon's tax breaks to business and cutbacks of programs benefitting the people.

In a detailed 48-page document, Meany presented to the joint congressional committee labor's "positive program for building a better America."

Its key ingredients include:

- Full funding of federal public investment programs in such areas as education, health care, low- and moderate-income housing and community facilities.

- An emergency program of public works construction and repair grants in areas of high unemployment.

- Legislation to create at least 500,000 federally-funded public service jobs with state and local organizations and private non-profit organizations.

- A rapid expansion of money and credit at lower interest rates to stimulate economic expansion.

- Congressional action to block the Administration's plan to give a multi-billion dollar tax windfall to business through a change in depreciation tax rules.

Meany told the congressional panel that there is an urgent need to raise the federal minimum wage to "at least \$2 an hour" and to expand coverage to 17,000,000 workers still unprotected.

He stressed the importance the labor movement attaches to the National Health Security bill as "the only comprehensive program of national health insurance that meets the challenges of care, financing, costs development and reform."

White House ruined its child conference, says unionist

The Nixon administration so controlled freedom of delegates to act at the White House Conference on Children last year that it was a failure, and the same fate is in prospect for a future such conference on youth, AFL-CIO Community Services Director Leo Perlis said.

Perlis said that the White House refused to allow the 4,000 delegates to meet in official general sessions to air views and make recommendations because it wished to avoid "the risk of confrontation—especially confrontation by the young."

Speaking on the AFL-CIO's Labor News Conference program on the Mutual network, Perlis charged that "the people who have been running the White House conference have rejected organizations that have offered their services, their brains and their hearts."

Stephen Hess, a White House aide, controlled the 1970 conference "lock, stock and barrel," Perlis declared.

He said that most of the recommendations from the 1970

conference were so general that they stand little chance of spurring action programs needed to attack the problems affecting children and youth.

He said the AFL-CIO solidly agrees with the theory and sentiment of recommendations such as "development of programs to eliminate the racism which cripples the children."

But labor contends the conference should have spelled out specific actions toward that goal, such as the kind of legislation and court orders needed to fully desegregate the school system.

White House Conferences on Children and Youth have been held every decade since the first was called by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1909.

Perlis, a union delegate to the 1950, 1960 and 1970 conferences, called for a return to a single, combined conference in Washington, D.C., instead of splitting it into separate sections on children and youth, as was done this year.

Labor asks strong enforcement unit against job obias

The AFL-CIO called on Congress to give the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission strong and exclusive powers to act against job discrimination.

Thomas E. Harris, AFL-CIO associate general counsel, reiterated labor's support of legislation empowering the EEOC to issue "cease and desist" orders against employers, unions and employment agencies that violate the fair employment section of the Civil Rights Act.

The bill, endorsed by leading civil rights organizations, would transfer to the EEOC the power now held by the Secretary of Labor to cancel government contracts of firms that discriminate in employment practices. It would shift to the strengthened EEOC present Justice Department functions to act against a "pattern" of discrimination.

This concentration of powers, Harris told a House Labor subcommittee, would give the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission "the effective enforcement authority it has heretofore lacked."

At the same time it will make sure that it is the commission to which parties must look, not a multiplicity of other agencies and jurisdictions, for enforcement or relief.

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evening. Either way you'll be there in plenty of time for the first show. And to make it even easier, you'll be taking off from your own side of the Bay. An hour and fifty cents closer to home. As a matter of fact,

Oakland is the easy way to a lot of places. Reno for instance. When you're ready to fly, call your travel agent. Or call the Fly Oakland Girl, 562-4165. She's on your side.

FLY OAKLAND

OFFICIAL UNION NOTICES

Cost of Reagan aid cuts told

AUTO & SHIP PAINTERS 1176 CARPENTERS 36

Auto, Marine & Specialty Painters 1176 meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in Room H, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, at 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
LESLIE K. MOORE,
Business Representative

IRON WORKERS 378

Our Regular Executive Board meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 8 p.m.

Stewards meetings also are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 8 p.m.

Our regular membership meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
BOB McDONALD
Business Agent

PRINTING SPECIALTIES 382

Meeting second Friday of the month at 8 p.m. in Jenny Lind Hall, 2267 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Fraternally,
TED E. AHL,
Secretary

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES 3

General membership meeting Hall C, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez St., Oakland, the fourth Friday of the month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
JACK KENNEDY,
Business Representative

ALAMEDA CARPENTERS 194

Carpenters Local 194 meets the first and third Monday evenings of the month at 8 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building, located at 2201 Central Avenue, Alameda.

Refreshments are served following the first meeting of the month in the Canteen for all present. You are urged to attend your Local's meetings.

There will be a Special Called Meeting of the joint membership of Locals 194, 1158 and 1473 to be held at the Union Hall of Local 1473, located at 1228 36th Ave., Oakland on April 8, 1971 at 8 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for Business Representative to serve for the ensuing two year term.

Fraternally,
WM. "BILL" LEWIS,
Recording Secretary

SHEET METAL WORKERS 216

The regular meetings are every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple.

Fraternally,
FRED HARMON,
Business Manager

SERVICE EMPLOYEES 18

General membership meetings of Service Employees Local 18 are held at 3 p.m. the fourth Friday of each month in Jenny Lind Hall, 2267 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Fraternally,
BEN J. TUSI,
Secretary

CARPET & LINOLEUM 1290

The next meeting of Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Workers Local 1290 will be held on Thursday, March 25, 1971 at 8 p.m., Hall C, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland. Please attend. National Conference Deaths are now due and payable through NC 385.

If you have not returned a completed bank card for the Vacation and Holiday Fund to this office, please do so immediately. Accounts are now set up at Wells Fargo Bank for each individual who has completed a card. The bank CAN NOT issue checks to anyone without a completed card.

Fraternally,
BOB SEIDEL,
Recording Secretary

The regular meetings for Carpenters Local Union 36 are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8460 Enterprise Way, Oakland, California 94621, at 8 p.m. Refreshments are served by the Ladies Auxiliary immediately following each meeting.

The hours of the Financial Secretary's Office are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Friday the office closes at 1 p.m. Phone 569-3465.

Blood Bank No. 13 is now due and payable.

Effective January 1, 1971, Dues are \$12 per month.

The new rate of reduced dues is six dollars per month for new cases effective January 1, 1971. Those cases that are already on the rolls will be continued at the old rates.

Pursuant to the requirements of Paragraphs J and L of the General Constitution it is the policy of the District Council that an assessment of \$3 for each Notice of Delinquent Dues mailed shall be paid by the member to whom such Notice of dues arrearages is sent. The previous notice charge was \$1. The new policy becomes effective immediately.

Fraternally,
ALLEN L. LINDER,
Recording Secretary

PLUMBERS & GAS FITTERS 444

The next regular meeting of Plumbers & Gas Fitters Local Union No. 444 will be Wednesday, March 24, 1971 at 8 p.m. in Hall A, first floor of the Labor Temple Building.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Regular order of business. Please make every effort to attend this meeting since union meetings are a very important part of union membership.

Fraternally,
GEORGE A. HESS,
Business Manager &
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

HAYWARD CARPENTERS 1622

Local 1622's Good Fellowship Club will hold its 21st annual meeting at our hall, 2 p.m., Saturday, April 3. Please attend. Food, refreshments, games.

Regular meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 8 p.m. with a social following the meeting on the fourth Thursday.

The office of the financial secretary is open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays, and 7:30 a.m. to noon Fridays.

Stewards meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. A stewards training program is held in conjunction with the stewards meeting.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1971
Journeyman dues are \$12.50 per month or \$37.50 per quarter.
Apprentice dues are \$12.25 per month or \$36.75 per quarter.
Retired dues are \$5.75 per month or \$17.25 per quarter.

Effective February 1, 1971, there is a \$3 assessment for each notice of dues arrearages and shall be paid by the member to whom such notice was mailed.

Effective April 1, 1971, there will be a \$4 Service Charge on ALL checks which are returned to the office, which have not been honored by the Bank they were written on. Members who are NOT receiving the CARPENTER magazine, please contact the Financial Secretary.

Fraternally,
KYLE MOON,
Recording Secretary

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES 257

The Regular Meeting of the California, Oakland Unified School Employees Local Union 257 will be held on Saturday, April 3, 1971, at 10:30 a.m. in the Castlemon High School Auditorium, 8601 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, California.

The Executive Board will meet at 8:00 a.m. in Community Room. All Board Members please take note.

Fraternally,
HAROLD BENNER,
Executive Secretary

Social Services Union Local 535 last week analyzed what is known about Governor Reagan's "welfare reform" and drew a frightening picture of heavy local taxpayer expense and drastic service cutbacks.

Local 535 based its analysis on the governor's welfare speech in Los Angeles and other administration statements before his specific legislation had reached the Legislature.

Four bills, carrying out Reagan's policy, were unveiled at a press conference Monday by five Republican legislators.

Major provisions include cutting down eligibility for aid to disabled and for MediCal, restricting MediCal service, setting up tight statewide welfare standards.

Here are some highlights of Local 535's analysis:

1. Aid to those needing it could be cut because the state would allocate a fixed amount for all adult relief clients and if the number increased, the money would be divided among more people.

2. Aid to Families with Dependent Children also would be a matter of a changing number of clients sharing a fixed amount. Counties' share of the program would rise from 16 2/3 per cent to 25 per cent, causing an immediate \$84,000,000 additional cost to counties.

3. One Reagan "saving" to counties would be more than wiped out by additional cost. The "saving" is an estimated \$30,000,000 a year in eligibility determination. Overshadowing it is an estimated \$50,000,000 more a year which counties could have to pay to support disabled persons squeezed off welfare by Reagan's "basket case" definition of disability.

4. The poor would assume extra expense under Reagan's requirement that they help pay for

medical care, drugs and hospitalization.

5. Counties would pay more for MediCal under Reagan's dictum that they pick up 15 per cent of the MediCal costs now completely financed by state and federal governments. The state would try, however, to get federal money for 270,000 children of working poor not under Medi-Cal.

6. Strikers and students would be denied welfare and food stamps, and others would have food stamps count against their basic aid grant.

7. A huge \$172,800,000 cut in social service administrative costs would deny counties federal funds for staff, meaning they would have to pay their \$55,000,000 share and the federal government's \$117,000,000 share. At least 10,000 clerks, special workers and eligibility workers would be excluded from the state budget.

Here is Reagan's schedule of shaved-down MediCal benefits:

• Maximum of 24 outpatient visits a year.

• Limit physician services to 4 visits a month.

• All other services limited to 2 visits a month.

• Hospital inpatient care — 65 days a year.

• Drugs — 2 prescription a month.

• Dental, eye, hearing aids, prosthetics, etc. require prior authorization.

• Counties provide supplemental benefits.

• Co-payments — \$1 a visit, \$1 a prescription, \$3 a day for hospital or nursing home care; this to be paid by client from welfare grant or other income.

AFSCME-EBMUD 444

The next executive board meeting will be held on April 1, 1971. All board members and committee members are urged to attend and begin formulating the groundwork for negotiations, grievances, organizing, legislation, and our future contract.

The next membership meeting will be held on April 8, 1971 starting promptly at 7:30 p.m. A report will be made at the executive board and membership meetings of our first arbitration case at EBMUD. The arbitration hearing will take place on March 29 at EBMUD. The arbitrator will be Mr. William Eaton. The arbitration will be for EBMUD's violation of Civil Service Rules 10 and 11.

Fraternally,
CHARLES E. TEIXEIRA,
Secretary-Treasurer

CHEMICAL WORKERS 62

Election of officers and delegates will be held Friday, April 9, 1971, 8 p.m. at the Ash Street Community Center. Voting booths will be open from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the benefit of swing shift workers.

Fraternally,
VERN HAGGARD,
Recording Secretary

U.C. EMPLOYEES 371

Our next regular meeting will be held on April 10, 1971, in Room 155, at Kroeber Hall. The meeting will start at 2 p.m. and it will be preceded by the Executive Board meeting at 1 p.m.

Fraternally,
J. J. SANTORO,
Secretary-Treasurer

UAW on strike at Kaiser Aerospace, Prestolite Battery

More than 400 members of United Auto Workers Local 76 were on strike this week against Kaiser Aerospace Electronics Corporation in San Leandro and the Prestolite Battery plant in Oakland over wages and fringe benefits.

The 350 strikers at Kaiser asked a 10 per cent pay boost the first year of a three-year contract and were offered 6 1/2 per cent. Secretary-Treasurer Romildo Caruso said. There was no dispute on second and third year pay.

Management offered a 50-cent per month pension contribution increase in the third year of the contract against the union proposal for \$1.50 more per month the first year and \$1 more per month in each of the second two years.

Similarly, unionists wanted a dental care program now but management proposed it not start until the third contract year.

The 80 Prestolite strikers were involved in a national strike called after negotiators in Detroit failed to agree on pay and fringe benefits.

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BERKELEY CARPENTERS 1158

TWO SPECIAL CALLED MEETINGS

On Thursday evening March 18, 1971 there will be a special called meeting to vote on whether to consolidate the offices of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. Please try to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served upon adjournment.

The place: 1970 Chestnut Street, Berkeley, California.

On Thursday evening April 8, 1971 there will be a SPECIAL called meeting jointly by Locals 1158, 1473, and 194 for the purpose of nominations for Business Representative. The place: 1228 - 36th Avenue, Oakland, California.

Regular meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut Street, Berkeley, California.

Fraternally,
NICK J. AFDAMO,
Recording Secretary

BARBERS 516

The next regular meeting of Barbers Local 516 will be held on Wednesday, March 24 at 8 p.m. in the Newark Square Barber Shop, 5600 Thornton Avenue, Newark, California.

Fraternally,
AL DOYLE,
Secretary-Treasurer

PRINTING SPECIALTIES 678

Meeting second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in Cannery Workers Hall, 492 C Street, Hayward, California.

Fraternally,
JOSEPH CABRAL,
Business Manager

BARBERS 134

Our next regular meeting will be held on Thursday night, March 25, 1971 at the Labor Temple, 23rd and Valdez Streets, Oakland.

At our last meeting four Resolutions were presented and read for the first reading.

First Resolution has to do with requirements of candidates running for office or as delegates.

Second Resolution is to allow shop owners to open shops on Mondays, providing they close Saturdays, work period is 5 consecutive days or less, hours are no more than 39 hours a week and there is a signed working agreement specifying same.

Third Resolution changing Saturday closing before Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day and Labor Day to the Tuesday after or choice of one or the other by signed agreement.

Fourth Resolution to reduce price of haircuts for senior citizens on Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Second reading on the above resolutions will be read at the March meeting and voted upon at the April meeting.

These two meetings will be important to you. PLEASE ATTEND.

Fraternally,
JACK M. REED,
Secretary-Treasurer

MILLMEN'S UNION 550

The next regular membership meeting of Millmen's Local 550 will be held Friday, March 19, 1971 at 8 p.m. at the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, Room 228.

The next regular executive board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9 at 8 p.m., Room 208, Labor Temple.

Fraternally,
ODUS G. HOWARD,
Financial Secretary

EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL



FOUNDED APRIL 3, 1926 . . . Only Official
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and Building Trades Council of Alameda County
AFL-CIO.

45th Year, Number 1

JOHN M. ESHLEMAN, Editor
1622 East 12th Street, Oakland, Calif. 94606

March 19, 1971

Phone 261-3980

What Nixon did in his Davis-Bacon suspension

There seems to be some misconception of just what Richard M. Nixon has done in suspending the Davis-Bacon Act.

To make it utterly clear:

He has ended the government's 40-year policy that federal construction money may not subsidize low-pay contractors but that those who get federal contracts pay the prevailing—usually the union—wage.

He has directed that state "Little Davis-Bacon Laws" also do not apply, even though state money is involved along with federal money in state contracts.

He has caused recall of contracts out for bid to delete both federal and state prevailing wage clauses. And he has actively recruited non-union contractors to bid.

He has not invalidated your union contract. That is a legal agreement which no President can break, whatever he would like to do.

He has not prevented you from negotiating, striking if necessary and improving that union contract when its term is up — again whatever his legislative program indicates he would like to do.

He has not prevented you from protesting, demonstrating or taking any lawful action against his own wage-cutting action.

Sainthood is something else

It is our opinion that Padre Junipero Serra was one of the handful of Californians who could be called great.

But we don't think that his greatness justifies a couple of Republicans in the Legislature in trying to get that body to ask Pope Paul to make Serra a saint.

Sainthood is a matter which is simply out of the Legislature's jurisdiction. There is and should be a separation of state and church.

Frankly, we believe that not only do our legislators have no business telling the church who should be canonized but that very few — if any — legislators will ever make saint themselves.

That is an exalted rating which is attained by passing very rigorous tests of evidence laid down by the church.

In order to be considered you have to be dead—which we certainly do not advocate for any of our politicians of any persuasion.

Not only is the thought of the Legislature meddling in strictly religious matters repugnant but the words of one of the GOP advocates of Serra sainthood are ill taken.

The late great clergyman, says this gentleman, was "the first white man priest to bring knowledge to California."

Neither his whiteness nor the knowledge referred to is the measure of Padre Serra's greatness. Nor are they qualifications for sainthood.

Serra was great because he stood between a dictatorial Spanish military colonial government and certain brown men—the Indians whom the Spanish brasshats wished to use as slaves.

He saved many from being condemned to quick radiation death in the Bay Area's mercury mines which comprised a deadly enterprise to miners but a profitable one to mine owners.

This made him unpopular with the colonial powers. When his influence ended, the new white owners of the land were able to exploit the original brown skinned owners more effectively.

But, for a brief span, Padre Serra truly made a great man's contribution to his fellow men.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

He advocates a political alternative

Editor, Labor Journal:

While I sympathize with the political plight of Mr. Beard, the "disillusioned Republican," I cannot go along with his proposed solution — to become a disillusioned Democrat.

Many of us have known for some time the anti-worker role of the Republicans. But some of us also believe that the role of the Democrats is not all that different. The latter may offer nicer-sounding phrases and cynically snide "criticisms" of the Republicans, but they really are no less anti-worker than their Republican counterparts. This despite some good intentions and their supposed "debt" to the labor movement which helps to elect them.

Who is it, after all, that is now proposing "wage-price controls" as a solution to inflation? It is the prominent spokesmen of the Democratic Party who offer us this classic gimmick for restricting legitimate wage demands while guaranteeing the profits of the corporations. But my point is not that the Republicans are any better.

There is an alternative to bouncing like a ping-pong ball from unbearable Republican to barely tolerable Democrat, from election to election. It may seem a novel idea, but in the deepest sense it is the most "practical" of all. I'm talking about a political party organized by the labor movement itself — which potentially represents the vast majority of the American people, those who work for a living.

Trade unionists know the importance of strictly-worker organizations in achieving economic gains. But when these economic gains are consistently wiped away by the political and

social policies of government and its agencies, it should also be clear that working people must have their own political party as well as their own economic organizations.

If we had such a party — financed by and under the control of the labor movement — we could begin to make gains even before we began to win elections. The very existence of a political party that consistently defended the interests of working people, whose candidates were not fair-weather "friends" of labor but were beholden to labor's own power, would change the whole political climate in America. For example, where would this leave the other two parties when they no longer could be guaranteed working people's votes. It would then become even more clear who pays their bills, and to whom they really are responsible.

Of course, many will argue that a labor party is not really necessary. Even today, there are those who insist that unions aren't necessary, because workers and employers really have the same interests at heart. Yet through long and bitter struggle working people learned that they could not depend on the goodwill of management to grant better working conditions. And now we must recognize that we cannot depend on "lesser evil" poli-

ticians for better social conditions.

As the employer-offensive increases, things will get tougher, not easier. With society crumbling around us, society's managers are trying to force us to pay the costs of holding it together. Labor must put forward its own program for resolving society's problems, and it needs a political vehicle to do this. We need a consistent voice advocating the right of all employees to strike, demanding the financing of social improvements by corporate wealth (which comes out of labor), supporting the legitimate demands of all workers for a decent standard of living, even if it means challenging the profits of a powerful few.

We have the most powerful trade union movement in the world. It's about time we put some political meat on our economic bones. This is the only alternative, at this point, to continuing on a treadmill that is going over a waterfall.

I hope that Mr. Beard, and those like him who would rather not spend their valuable time and irreplaceable energy boosting political hacks into positions of power, will consider this real political alternative. Otherwise more disillusionment is certain to follow.

MIKE FRIEDMAN
AFSCME 1695

Unionism pays -- more

An old story that is constantly repeated is the newest government disclosure that it pays—more—to have a union.

In the first nine months of last year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported, union members in manufacturing averaged 8 per cent pay increases or 25.7 cents per hour.

Non-union factory people got raises too. Their bosses gave them 5.9 per cent more or 16.2 cents an hour raises.

That was a bigger difference than in 1969 when union factory workers' raises averaged 7.4 per cent over the year against 6.1 per cent for non-union workers.

Some more comparisons:

- Wage increases of less than 6 per cent went to only 17 per cent of employees in union shops, but to 57 per cent of the workers in non-union workplaces.

- Eighty-one per cent of workers under union contract got hikes of 6 to 11 per cent and up, as against 43 per cent of non-union people.

BLS reported raises of less than 15 cents for 36 per cent of the union-represented workers and for 48 per cent of the non-union employees. Raises of from 15 to 40 cents and over went to 64 per cent of the union employees and 53 per cent of the others, the report showed.

2 new delegates

Two delegates, Peggy Lively of Glass Bottle Blowers Association Local 141 and Walter J. Freeman of University of California Local 1474 of the American Federation of Teachers, were seated by the Alameda County Central Labor Council last week.

Berkeley teachers march, reject pay cuts

Two hundred irate Berkeley teachers marched nearly two miles through the rain last week to protest the school administration's proposals to cut teacher pay and services to children.

The demonstration, called by the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, began at the civic center and wound up at school administrative offices at Walnut and Rose Streets where the crowd swelled to 300.

This week, BFT was meeting with members to put its 1971-72 proposals into final form for next negotiations with Superintendent of Schools Richard Foster.

The union's proposals won't accept the possibility, expressed by

School Board President Arnold Grossberg, that salaries will be cut. Instead, said BFT Secretary-Treasurer Judy Bodenhausen, the union will ask for cost of living increases and the regular longevity pay increases which Foster says may have to be eliminated.

The union will oppose any cuts in services to children, another administration economy possibility.

School authorities have receded from Foster's proposal that there may be a staff cut to meet an unexpected deficit, but Grossberg told a board meeting Saturday that pay cuts affecting all personnel were being considered,

with larger percentage cuts in higher salaries.

If there is to be economy, teachers want it in upper administration ranks, affecting positions at other than school sites.

Besides pay, the union will ask for rules, now lacking in Berkeley, governing working hours, yard and hall duty, a teachers' voice in curriculum and text selection and in teacher evaluation methods. Reduction in class size will be another union objective.

BFT, now grown to a membership of 350 among the school district's 900 teachers, also asked other unionists in Berkeley to support the BFT's proposals in letters to the school board.

Grievance over a grievance

The East Bay Municipal Utility District has come up with a novel reason for suspending an employee — the way he handled another employee's grievance — AFSCME - EBMUD Local 444 Vice President Manuel Pontes disclosed this week.

Pontes told the Alameda County Central Labor Council that he had been suspended for five days. And that, he said, is another grievance.

"And they violated the contract, which says they're supposed to talk to the shop steward before they fire or suspend anyone," he noted. "I'm the steward."

Pontes, a meter reader, reported that he was told to report back to a superior while he was on his route. He refused on learning that the summons concerned his

grievance handling, not his work, and after his shift was over he was suspended over the grievance.

Management has committed other violations of the contract, which Local 444 won in a strike, Pontes charged.

He noted that management's action against him came after Local 444 had won a representative election for a new group of employees and asked a card check to establish its majority in another unit.

EBMUD failed to pay him for his three hours as an observer at the election, and he's filed another grievance for that.

The grievance over which he was suspended concerned a meter reader who found meter covers frozen and was slowed down so that he could not finish his route.

New organizing is underway at Blue Cross here

Blue Cross employees here, who voted against union representation 17 months ago after heavy anti-union propaganda by management, have taken a new and more favorable look at organization.

As a result, Office & Professional Employees Local 29 reported this week it has moved ahead in an organizing campaign among the 900 Blue Cross workers.

One third of cards authorizing union representation were signed by employees who were with the health insurance agency and declined to sign during the first organizing drive, said Business Representative Dick Delaney.

A meeting of unions whose labor-management health and welfare funds are major Blue Cross subscribers will be held soon to brief them on the campaign. The unions will be asked to tell Blue Cross to refrain from the kind of propaganda it used before.

Employees involved work at the Northern California headquarters of the agency at 1919 Webster Street, Oakland, and at six other East Bay offices.

Blue Cross workers' main complaints are at low pay compared with Local 29's Kaiser agreement rates, lack of job security and failure to pay according to correct classifications, the union said.

The union lost a National Labor Relations Board election in October, 1969, but in recent months an increasing number of employees have called the union asking to be organized.

Stopwork urged as protest over Davis-Bacon

Continued from page 1

gress intended to permit suspension was a declaration of war.

And labor hammered at Nixon's claim of a wage "inflation" emergency — since government and industry figures showed that construction wages do not cause inflation, but rather are a diminishing part of costs while land and interest prices inflate building prices.

Bearing out labor's fear that suspension would mean a flood of low-wage, non-union contractors, government agencies were holding up bids until Davis-Bacon provisions could be deleted. Under a federal order similar state law provisions were also being deleted.

Nixon based his suspension on legal opinions which one labor attorney told the State BTC meeting would have flunked out a law school student.

Health care zooms into orbit

Whatever is pushing up the cost of health care, it isn't hospital workers' pay, figures brought out at the California Labor Federation's national health insurance conference proved.

For instance:

• Between 1963 and 1968 the average annual salaries of U.S. community hospital employees went up 35 per cent but in the same period total daily expenses of the same hospitals rose 50 per cent.

And, whatever causes hospital inflation, it's something besides the general rise in costs. Another comparison showed.

• The cost of living rose 25 per cent in the last 10 years but hospital daily service

charges rose by 150 per cent and physicians' fees by nearly 50 per cent in the same period.

Figures showing that health care is a big-money item included the \$87,200,000,000 spent on health care in the 1969-70 fiscal year, up \$7,000,000,000 over the previous year. Ten years earlier the annual figure was \$27,000,000,000. Health care cost amounts to 7 per cent of the gross national product but was only 5.4 per cent 10 years ago.

Increases in the last fiscal year alone were 15 per cent for hospital care, to \$25,600,000,000; 9.5 per cent for physicians' services, to \$12,900,000,000 and \$33 on the average per person health expenditure to put that cost at \$324 a year.

Kennedy hits health costs

If President Nixon wants to wipe out inflation, health care costs—not building tradesmen's wages—is his best target, U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy told 550 California unionists last week.

Kennedy was the featured speaker at a dinner during the California Labor Federation's two-day conference in San Francisco on national health insurance.

He is a principal author of the Health Security Act of 1971, the labor-backed measure for national health insurance.

At the opening session of the conference, AFL-CIO Legislative Director Andrew J. Biemiller warned delegates that to pass the Health Security Act, labor will tangle with the Nixon administration, the American Medical Association, insurance companies and others "who, when you try to do anything to better the health of the American public, raise the cry that you're 'socializing medicine.'"

"All your lives," Kennedy told the dinner, "you have had to be content with a second-rate health system in a first rate nation."

"For too long, the health care system has been allowed to operate solely for the benefit of those who provide the services—the doctors, the hospitals, and their agents, the insurance companies rather than for the benefit of those who receive the services, the people of America."

"After 40 years the providers and the financiers of health care in America have established a dismal record of performance . . ."

The Massachusetts Democrat said that President Nixon's rival health plan, which would subsidize private insurance firms, would lead to "increased fragmentation of the system."

Unlike Nixon's plan, the Health Security Act would provide care for everyone living in the country plus services to prevent and detect disease and for medical rehabilitation, he declared.

YMCA workers pick Service Employees

Janitors, maids and clerks at the Berkeley YMCA last week voted to be represented by Service Employees Local 18 after a four-month organization campaign.

Low wages and denial of benefits were the issues influencing organization, said Business Representative Charles Garner.

The union now will bargain for raises, medical care which the Y provides only for upper-bracket workers, vacations which most of the 21 affected employees don't get, and for other improvements, Garner said.

Last week's election, supervised by the State Conciliation

It has no cutoff dates, no means tests, no deductibles and no waiting periods as are found in Nixon's proposal, he noted.

Under the Kennedy bill, the cost of the program would be paid partly out of general federal funds and partly out of payroll tax of 3.5 per cent on employers and 1 per cent on employees.

This means that for the average U.S. worker making \$7,000 a year, the cost of the program would be \$70, exactly what he is paying today for Medicare when he reaches 65.

Under the Nixon program, a worker with a \$5,000 hospital expense would be obliged to pay about \$1,800 out of his own pocket or 25 per cent of his salary for the entire year instead of just the \$70 that would be required under S. 3.

He also pointed out that millions of Americans would not be covered by any part of the Nixon program.

"I stand convinced," the Senator said, "that any new national health insurance program we enact should be carried out like Social Security."

He emphasized that the health security program proposed in S. 3 is "not 'socialized medicine,' or a 'national health service' or any of the other scare labels the Administration seeks to paste on it."

Biemiller urged his hearers to "get personally involved" in the battle to pass Kennedy's bill and this country's status as "a second rate nation" in health care.

Some of the causes of that status, Kennedy said are:

• The soaring cost of health care.

• The acute and worsening shortage of all kinds of health personnel, especially doctors.

• The deteriorating condition of the health care system itself, its archaic and inadequate methods of providing health care for the citizenry.

• The crisis in the quality of health care.

• The absence of any effective role for citizen participation.

from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

Continued from page 1

man, has got much of the publicity and image-building.

Old John got great publicity when Bruno Hauptmann was arrested and executed for kidnapping and murdering Charles Lindbergh's son, when an agent shot down John Dillinger in a Chicago street, when public enemy Alvin "Creepy" Karpis was picked up and lots more times.

So, you say, that publicity was earned, and I won't argue. I'll only say that the agency has a publicity technique.

★ ★ ★

FOR INSTANCE, once while I was employed on a daily newspaper, I was told to take a call from the FBI.

An agent identified himself and read a short press release, declaring that special agents of the FBI, with help from Albany police, had picked up a wanted man.

Any details? asked I. That is all I am authorized to report, said he.

So, having that dedicated curiosity of the true ace journalist, I telephoned the Albany police.

I hear, said I, that the FBI picked up so-and-so in your town.

Certainly not, said the officer on the other end of the line. Sergeant So-and-So spotted him in a restaurant from a wanted picture, took him in and we called the FBI, said he.

★ ★ ★

THAT'S ONE example. Another time, while on the same newspaper, I participated in a group effort which produced a great news beat on the solution to a kidnapping, entirely by long-distance telephone.

Throughout the night, we telephoned various sources up-country and put the whole story together. Our sources began with the deputy sheriff who actually caught the kidnaper and liberated the kidnaped, but we cov-

ered everybody who knew anything about it, beginning around midnight when we got our first tip and continuing through the night.

Around 3 a.m., on calling one of the news sources back, I was told the FBI had sternly warned him to say nothing to the press.

Well, said I, I doubt that they will be able to suppress this news. Particularly because I have written it and it is already being passed out to the public in the first of what I predict will be several extras.

Those were the good days when there were newsvendors and they occasionally quickened your tired blood by shouting "Extry, extry paper, read all about it!"

★ ★ ★

HAD WE not heard about this story before the FBI did, I am sure that every witness would have been buttoned up and, around noon or so, a special agent would have called and said, I have a press release.

The press release would have said that special agents of the FBI, with the help of such-and-such county sheriff's officers, had picked up so-and-so, wanted for kidnapping.

All of which makes me very suspicious that 13 top and middle grade FBI types unanimously wrote Senator McGovern that he's being much too nasty to John Edgar in publicizing the claim that the FBI has become a public relations agency for Hoover.

Coincidentally, their letters were all dated within a day of each other, although I absolutely believe that man who told McGovern that his letter was not "mandatory defense" of Mr. Hoover.

★ ★ ★

BUT ACTUALLY, the FBI has not become a public relations operation for Hoover and itself. It always was.